

WORD ORIGINS.

Some Old Meanings That Are Now More or Less Obsolete.

"Many persons," says a college professor, "follow their way through the world and yet cannot tell why their own elbows are so named. They forget that the syllable 'ell' was once our name for arm and then for a measure of an arm's length, a sense that is plain still in the proverb, 'Give an inch and he will take an ell.' In the light of this obsolete meaning 'elbow' is clearly armbow, the bend of the arm. 'Finger' is allied to 'fang,' and so means a grasper, and 'hand' has a similar sense because from the same root as 'hound,' the game grasper, and with 'apprehend.' 'Nail,' being from the same root as 'nag,' teaches that nagging is a figurative scratching with the ends of the fingers. 'Wrist' is what wrests or turns the hands and is plainer when we find that 'foot wrist' was an old name for ankle. 'Vertebrae' are also turners, the bones on which the body turns round horizontally, while haunches, literally 'bends,' analogous to 'hinges,' are what it turns upon up and down. 'Instep,' if still spelled as once it was, 'instoop,' would describe itself as the foot's stoop or bend inward to the ankle.

"Muscle," which means mouse, takes its name from its shape, and the ends which stretch it are tendons, which is Latin for stretchers. Beginners in Latin are pleased to learn that the uvula, at the root of the tongue, means a grape cluster; that the clavicle, which locks up the chest, means key; that a certain vein is called jugular, meaning pertaining to a yoke, because near the yoke of the right and left ribs. 'Nostri' is nose drill, for it pierces the nose as drills do rocks. 'Artery' etymologically is an air tube and so perhaps was once pronounced airtery. No blood being found in arteries after death, it was natural, since nature abhors a vacuum, to think those empty vessels to be air pipes or ducts for vital spirits which were quite distinct from that in the veins.

"Muzzle" is not a dignified word for mouth, but it has an origin and relations worth knowing. It means a bitter and is cognate with 'morsel' and 'remorse.' 'Muzzle' is a bitter, 'morsel' is what is bitten and 'remorse' is an after bite. Instead of transferring from Latin the phrase 'remorse of conscience' Anglo-Saxons translated it the 'again bite of inwit,' the title of an ancient poem dating from the year 1840. 'Jaws' would be a plainer word if spelled now as it was in our Bible of 1611—that is, 'chawes'—I will put books in thy chawes."

No Chance For Attachment.
Excessive bashfulness is no joke to the person who suffers from it. Such a person was Jared Philpot. Half a dozen times in his life he had wanted to marry somebody, but could never summon the courage to say so, and he had become a middle aged bachelor and "Uncle Jared" to a large collection of nieces and nephews. "Uncle," one of these youthful relatives asked him one day, "how does it happen that you have never taken a 'rib' unto yourself?" "What would be the use, child?" sighed Uncle Jared. "I haven't any backbone."

"I Thank The Lord!"
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PROPOSALS FOR BIDS.

Sealed proposals for bids will be received at the office of the Columbia River Packers' Association for the erection of a wharf and warehouse on the site of the old Occident cannery in Upper Astoria. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office. Bids will be opened on Nov. 25 at 10 o'clock, a. m. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

COLUMBIA RIVER PACKERS' ASSOCIATION.
Astoria, Oregon, Nov. 9, 1905.

LOST AND FOUND.

LOST—IF THE PERSON WHO TOOK a lady's umbrella by mistake from the Methodist church Sunday evening, will return same to the Holden House they may save themselves trouble.

LOST—A FOB BEARING MASONIC charm on Commercial street, between 10th and 12th streets. Finder please leave at this office and receive reward.

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POTTED PLANTS AND FLOWERS for sale—Experienced gardening and job work of all kinds done on short notice—Address orders to X. C. Carr Astorian Office.

Small Ads. on this page are read by those who know their value. Try them— They will be of value to you.

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